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OO RUEHPA
DE RUEHOS #0310 0600701
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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6693
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 0077
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0125
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE 0684
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0559
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE 0099
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000310

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION DOWNGRADED TO
CONFIDENTIAL - NOFORN CAPTION REMOVED - PARA 2, 3 AND 4

SIPDIS
CLASSIFICATION CHANGE).

SIPDIS

STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS AND SRENENDER
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ
STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, AF/EX, DS/IP/OPO, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2016
TAGS: [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [KHLs](#) [PINR](#) [ETRD](#) [CASC](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: DELTA WORKING GROUP INITIATED

REF: LAGOS 297 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Acting Pol/Econ Chief Shannon Ross for Reasons 1.4 (D & E)

Weekly Meeting Established

11. (SBU) Post initiated a weekly Delta Working Group (DWG) consisting of U.S. Consulate personnel and oil/oil service company representatives to facilitate Delta security and hostage crisis information exchange. Consulate personnel provided the group an overview of the security situation and hostage status, and the representatives agreed to provide company maps of their operations in the Delta and share information from their source networks in the area.

Ijaw - Itsikiri Relations

12. (SBU) The DWG representatives reported hearing rumors of Itsikiri's in the Delta rearming to defend themselves from Ijaw intrusion into their communities. (Note: Sources in Warri also say the Itsikiri are prepared to defend themselves, but say there is currently no tension brewing between the Itsikiri and Ijaw. End note.)

Arms Flowing Into The Delta

13. (SBU) The DWG representatives said arms are freely flowing directly into the region from suppliers in Sierra Leone,

Lebanon, Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere, often conveyed aboard boats disguised as fishing vessels (commonly known as "greyhounds"), which the militants motor to from the creeks to pick up the weapons offshore. The representatives said weapons turned in for the Rivers State "buy back" were mostly older models. The group complained they are required to turn in to the GON any arms seized from militants by their security forces, frequently they are back in the perpetrators' hands within hours. Legatt requested that oil company representatives contact the Consulate if there are future seizures. Legatt would then contact appropriate GON units to raise the visibility of the seizure and avoid the weapons' return to their former owners.

JTF Role In Bunkering

14. (C) The DWG representatives said JTF (or elements of the JTF) complicity in illegal oil bunkering and providing protection for bunkerers is common knowledge, and General Zamani's deputy is a leading participant. They said the attacks two weeks ago which precipitated the current crisis were directed at eliminating competing bunkerers.
HOWE